

# Renewables for Sustainable Village Power (RSVP) Web Site

by Julie Cardinal 1/00

## Background

The National Renewable Energy Laboratory's (NREL) Village Power Program supplies information to both private and public stakeholders through a World Wide Web site at <http://www.rsvp.nrel.gov>. The information provided on the Web site is regularly updated to maintain its usefulness and to help develop and foster working relationships with those interested in village power projects around the world.

## Scope

The RSVP Web site provides a variety of information on topics such as applications, contacts, and the development of renewable energy projects.

**Village Power Program.** This section of the Web site provides overview information about the Village Power Program and an electronic, village power bibliography with full-text documents.

**Database.** The RSVP database has information on more than 140 international village power projects from more than 20 countries. The database is searchable by technology (e.g., wind, photovoltaics), application (e.g., lights, water), sector (e.g., residential, commercial), and geographical region (see Table 1). Each project entry contains information on economic, financial, institutional, and technical aspects. Host country, project participants, lessons learned, and photographs are also included.

**Analytical models.** This section of the Web site contains descriptions of analytical models developed and used by the RSVP program. The models include the *Hybrid Optimization Model for Electric Renewables* (HOMER), the *Village Power Optimization model for Renewables* (ViPOR), and *Hybrid2*.

**Listserv.** The listserv provides a platform for sharing experiences and opinions on issues related to village power through e-mail. Here

you can find announcements of new village power services, requests for information, requests for proposals, Internet resources, project opportunities, and updates on the RSVP Program. The discussions provide networking opportunities and address topics such as new technologies, social and cultural issues in village power, economics and financing, and working with various development institutions. Past discussions can be viewed on the Web site's listserv link.

**Village Power Conference.** This section of the Web site provides information about past Village Power Conferences (i.e., proceedings) and information about the upcoming Village Power Conference.

**Library.** This section of the Web site has publication information from NREL and other rural development organizations such as the World Bank and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). It also contains the RSVP team publications, theses and dissertations, and links to related Internet libraries.

**Contacts.** This section provides contact information for consultants/developers, equipment/system suppliers, and international contacts.

**Village Power event calendar.** The calendar provides information on upcoming village-power-related meetings and conferences.

The RSVP Web site also contains links to other Internet resources on renewable energy.

## Status and Planned Activities

Recently, all database project contacts have been notified to update their projects. NREL tries to have all of the projects reviewed every 12 to 18 months to keep the information up to date. Since NREL's last major update when more than 20 new projects were added from Vietnam, Indonesia, Nepal, Philippines, China, Bangladesh, India,

Laos, and Thailand, a couple of new projects have been added and several projects are in the queue to be deleted. NREL's goal is to only list those projects with more complete and thorough project descriptions.

NREL plans to continue to expand the database and to regularly update the project information. Other activities include increasing the number of site users, building the RSVP bibliography and extended bibliography, keeping village power professionals up to date on the next Village Power Conference, maintaining the village power calendar, and adding useful village-power- related Web site links.

## NREL Contact

Web site: <http://www.rsvp.nrel.gov>

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## Partial Matrix of RSVP Database Projects

Region	Application	Technology											Grand Total
		Biogas	Biomass Combustion	Biomass Gasification	Diesel	Gas Generator	Geothermal	Hybrid System(s)	Micro Hydro	Photo-voltaics	Solar Thermal	Wind	
Caribbean	Cooking									1		1	2
	Ice maker									1			1
	Lights									6		1	7
	Mini grid											1	1
	Radio									1		1	2
	Refrigerator									1			1
	Stores									1		1	2
	Telecommunications									1		1	2
	TV									1		1	2
	Water pump									4		2	6
<b>Caribbean Total</b>										17		9	26
Central America	Battery charging											4	4
	Computer									1			1
	Lights									6		3	9
	Power tools									2			2
	Productive uses								1				1
	Radio											1	1
	Sewing machine									3			3
	Stores								1				1
	TV									1		1	2
	Village power								1				1
	Water pump								1	2			3
<b>Central America Total</b>									4	15		9	28

**Table 1.** The matrix cross-tabulates projects' technologies by their applications. For example, if a project has two technologies listed and one application, it is counted twice and so forth.